

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: R. SAITO, et al.

Application No.: Rule 1.53(b) Continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/302,953, filed November 25, 2002

Filed: On Even Date Herewith

For: SEMICONDUCTOR MEMORY DEVICE AND METHOD OF OPERATION THEREOF

Art Group of Parent: 2818

Examiner of Parent: T. Q. Phan

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 24, 2004

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as listed below and as set forth on the following pages:

**Amendments to the Specification; and**

**Remarks are included following the amendments.**